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To: Westfield Board of Works

From: Melody Jones

CC: Todd Burtron

Date: August 28, 2014

Subj: Parks Department Report for August 2014

Dear Board Members:

The past month has likely been Parks and Recreation's busiest month. July and August are the peak months for maintenance and installation, as well as planning for next event season. We could not be more excited about the direction we are heading.

**Internships:** Our Urban Forestry Intern Colin finished his inventory project along the Monon Trail, Midland Trace Trail and park properties. In total, Colin inventoried over 8500 trees. His accomplishment and findings will be invaluable in recovering from our Ash tree epidemic. Melody Tincknell, our Special Events and Programming Intern is winding down her internship. She will be departing in the next couple weeks, upon completion of her hours and having taught a program she created herself. Both Colin and Melody have bright futures ahead of them and have proven how much more valuable forward-thinking, self-starting employees are.

**Maintenance Division:** Maintenance has hired their temporary laborer Corey Harris as a full-time laborer. His work ethic and irrigation knowledge are already helping us make our parks and department more efficient. Several irrigation issues have been addressed and resolved with his aid. With the aid of Streets and Public Works, stone shoulders along the Monon Trail were completed from 146<sup>th</sup> St to 161<sup>st</sup> St. Additionally, much tree work has been successful from planting to transport to hazardous removal. Finally, amenities for the Monon Trail at 146<sup>th</sup> St. have been purchased and should be installed before October's end.

**Programming:** The Fall/Winter Grand Guide has hit mailboxes and summer classes are winding down. The second summer of programming is nearly at an end. With the addition of summer camps and more focused classes, Brittany Goger has more than doubled revenue for the summer. With new contracts set to be in place starting next season, the department is setting lofty goals to double revenue again in the 3<sup>rd</sup> summer.

**Special Events:** Race Across Hamilton County will have taken place the weekend before the monthly Board of Works meeting. Everyone is excited about the event, as registration sold out in 30 hours even with the number of teams increased this year. Moving forward, the department is looking at expanding the event to make it more profitable for all involved. Voices from the Past is quickly approaching, and Melody Jones has worked diligently with the Westfield in Bloom Committee to make the historic walking tour a trademark event for the city. Jordan McBride is working with the Westfield Lions Club to hold an inaugural disc golf tournament, and the Emily Yott Foundation to establish a charitable festival in 2015. Movies in the Park has filled the north end of Asa Bales through July and August thanks to the hard work of our partners City Spring Church.

Finally, land acquisitions continue to be finalized for Grand Junction. In an effort to assist in further cost savings for the city Jordan McBride and Chris McConnell are writing grants for the urban tree recovery and environmental enhancement of Grand Park.

## **Parks and Recreation**

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